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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4132
INFO RUEHKK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC PRIORITY

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 003519

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE, NSC FOR ABRAMS/DORAN/WATERS, USAID
FOR KUNDER/MCCLOUD/BORODIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [PHUM](#)
SUBJECT: MGGZ01 - JERUSALEM AUGUST 9 SITREP

1. (SBU) Summary. Three Qassam rockets were fired from northern Gaza into Israel on August 8. The IDF responded with shelling, resulting in at least two injuries. In the West Bank, an Israeli air strike August 9 in the Jenin refugee camp killed two Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) activists, including the head of the PIJ military wing in Jenin. Palestinian media reported that 5-6 rockets that originated in Lebanon landed in open fields in the northern West Bank near Jenin. The Rafah, Karni/al-Mintar, and Nahal Oz crossings remain closed on August 9. End summary.

Military Developments

2. (SBU) Overall violence in the Gaza Strip remains low for a second day in a row, August 8-9. Palestinian militants, however, launched three Qassam rockets on August 8 from northern Gaza in the direction of the Western Negev. There were no reported injuries or damage. The military wing of Hamas and the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility for the rocket launches. The IDF responded to the rocket fire by shelling areas in northern Gaza, injuring at least two Palestinians.

3. (SBU) In the West Bank, Israeli aircraft fired missiles August 9 at two houses in the Jenin refugee camp, killing two wanted PIJ activists, including the head of the PIJ military wing in Jenin. The apparent target of the Israeli air strike was the head of the PIJ military wing for the West Bank, Husam Jaradat, who escaped without injury. The IDF also conducted raids into villages near Jenin in search of suspected militants. The IDF arrested two wanted PIJ and al-Aqsa militants in separate operations on August 8. During both operations, the IDF clashed with gunmen and Palestinians throwing stones, resulting in at least four injuries. IDF units operating in the Balatah and Askar refugee camps in Nablus resulted in at least three Palestinian injuries and the arrest of one Fatah activist. The IDF arrested an additional three Palestinians overnight August 8-9 in Ramallah and Bethlehem.

4. (SBU) Palestinian media reported August 9 that 5-6 rockets originating from Lebanon fell into open areas near Faquah village, east of Jenin, causing no injuries or property damage. Arab and Israeli media also reported August 9 that an Israeli air strike on the Ein al-Hilweh refugee camp in Lebanon, which killed four Palestinians, targeted the headquarters of senior Fatah militia leader Munir Mouqдах.

5. (SBU) Israeli authorities on August 9 discharged from an Israeli hospital Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)

Speaker Aziz Dweik following complaints of chest pain on August 7. Dweik was returned to the Ofer prison facility. PA Deputy Prime Minister Naser Eddin al-Sha'er said August 8 that lab samples of a suspicious powder discovered in an envelope delivered to the Prime Minister's office in Ramallah have been sent to Amman for additional testing. Laboratory testing has failed to reveal the nature of the substance, which hospitalized several personnel at the Prime Minister's office.

Humanitarian Update

16. (SBU) The Rafah crossing remains closed August 9. The Karni/al-Mintar and Nahal Oz crossings are closed August 9, as they were August 8, for unspecified security reasons, according to both PalTrade employee Mohammed Skeik and Gaza-based USAID staff. Both crossings were last open August 17.

17. (SBU) All ten electricity feeder lines from Israel into Gaza are operational on August 9.

WALLES